



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.

ALEXANDRIA:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 30, 1859.

"POPULAR LITERATURE."—The weekly periodicals, published at the North, which are furnished at a cheap rate, and have such an extensive circulation, permeating, if we may so speak, through a large number of the dwellings of our land, and furnishing literary food for so many hundreds of thousands of people, could, we have often thought, exercise a most salutary influence over public taste, public refinement, and public intelligence, with no detriment to their own pecuniary interests, by a very simple improvement in, or alteration of, their present plan. That improvement, according to our idea, would be, the substitution of such articles, for instance, as appeared in "Chambers' Papers for the People," or as now appear in "Household Words," for the flashy and in many instances, miserably designed and written novels (so called) which incur their pages, and are continued, ad nauseam, or until the authors tire out themselves, as they certainly, we should think, must tire out their readers. We believe it is a mistake to suppose that the success of these weekly popular periodicals depends upon these "novels" or "tales"; the fact is, probably, that it is achieved in spite of them! Had they only these stories, (for the most part without a single redeeming trait either of genius or nature, to recommend them,) to rely upon, they would die of inanition. Fortunately their ample columns afford room for "other and more attractive matter," and if they escape from sinking, they are floated along the current by different means than the modern, "sensational" stories. To be sure, a taste can be created among some, who have no other reading than these weeklies, for the kind of writing which we contend could and should be discarded from their pages; but it would be just as easy to create a different and a better taste, which, in a short time, by judicious attention, would loathe the wretched literary food, now served up, and supposed to be so palatable. There is in every man, woman, and child, who has correct principles and feelings, to say nothing of education, a natural and instinctive feeling in favor of that which is, at least, sensible, and they soon learn to love that kind of literature which interests and amuses, and to turn from that which does neither the one nor the other. There are, it is admitted, men, women, and children who have no correct feelings, or principles; and if it is designed that the "popular literature of the day" should be prepared only for the use of those last mentioned, we have nothing to say. But they constitute, in truth, but a very small portion of the ordinary reading public—indeed, they are seldom readers of books or newspapers, at all. The effort should be to give the large majority, the benefit of instruction, and the best reading—the small minority will fall in and accept it, too, after a while. Nor would the change we propose bear hard even upon such of the writers of these tales as have abilities. Their talents could easily be transferred to other departments of literature, and their time be occupied in preparing articles, giving information in matters of history, science, and polite literature, instead of being taken up, in concocting the plots of stories, improbable in conception, and the characters of heroes and heroines such as never existed or could exist in nature. The periodicals would sell just as well as they now do, under such a regime, and authors and writers would be just as well, if not better, paid. It would work well all round.

DISCUSSION AT ORANGE COURT HOUSE.—A large number of the citizens of Orange, and from several of the adjoining counties, were in attendance at Orange Court House, on Monday, to listen to the discussion between Messrs. Smith, Shackelford and Thomas, the candidates for Congress from this district.—The speeches of Messrs. Smith and Shackelford are highly spoken of by their respective friends, and both of these gentlemen are said to have acquitted themselves with great credit to their abilities. It affords us great pleasure, also, to add, upon the information of some who were present, that Mr. Thomas was the greatest favor from his friends, and gained the applause and approbation of even many of the opposite parties. He not only delighted his friends with his courteous and pleasant bearing, his sound arguments, and his ready and effective and good humored wit, but created a feeling in his behalf, which manifested itself upon the spot, which was acknowledged on all hands, and which will stimulate those who desire his election, to renewed exertions in his behalf. It was plain to be seen that the people look to him, and the highest hopes are entertained that he will get a very large vote in Orange—a vote that has not been calculated upon by his opponents. The result of the discussion in Orange is every way encouraging to Mr. Thomas's friends. He met with decided success.

Our informants state that at the conclusion of the speeches of the candidates, a Democratic meeting was called, and held at the Court House, attended with considerable confusion. Resolutions endorsing Governor Smith were offered, but after an animated discussion withdrawn, and the meeting adjourned, without taking definite action on the matter, to the 14th of April.

Several of the Cashmere goats recently imported into this country, have been sent to Texas.

Others are making to establish a Cotton Factory in New Orleans.

The New York Herald has the full particulars of the capture of the bark E. A. Rawlins, Capt. Hayden, of New Orleans, at St. Stephen's, Florida, by the United States steamer Vixen, on suspicion of being fitted out for the slave trade. The crew consisted of several Spaniards, who were placed in irons. One of them, a lad nineteen years of age, has since made a confession, in which he details the particulars of the fitting out of the vessel and gives a brief account of her trip to Havana. He also alleges that the reason the vessel did not go on her voyage to Africa was on account of a dispute that arose between the captains—two of whom they had on board, an American and a Spaniard—and before the matter was settled the latter, it is alleged, was murdered, and the vessel taken into St. Joseph's.

The Washington Union is down upon the New York Herald, for its recent political course—calls the Herald a political non-descript—and asks, even, "if the Herald is sincere in its zeal for the personal success of Mr. Buchanan, does it suppose that it would be of service and pleasure to any man to be thus supported and flattered at the expense of the party to whom he owes his position, or of colleagues willing to sink or swim with his fortunes?"

NOMINATIONS.—The Whigs of lower Fauquier, held a convention in Warrenton, on Monday, and nominated Enos Hord, esq., for the Legislature. On the same day, a Democratic Convention was held in the same place, and Messrs. Kinchloe from the upper end, and Childs from the lower end of the County received the nomination for the House of Delegates.

On the route from Richmond, Va., to Wilmington, N. C., the Postmaster General directed that the agency of W. B. Chalkley be discontinued; that seven agents be required to perform the service—three on day and three on night line, with an additional agent for the relief of others and in cases of emergency. Route from Richmond to Danville, Va., W. W. Averett is assigned route agent, in place of H. V. Graves, resigned, at same salary—\$800 per annum.

Mr. Chas. C. Fulton, one of the proprietors of the Baltimore American, sailed from New York on Saturday in the steamship City of Washington for Liverpool. The principal object of the trip is to repair his health, but in making the tour of England, Ireland and Scotland, and of portions of France, Germany, and Italy, if opportunity permit, he will furnish the readers of the American with his impressions of the Old World.

The Vicksburg Southern says:—"We are informed by a letter received here yesterday, from the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Southern Commercial Convention, that after mature consultation, the second Monday in May next, the 9th of the month, has been definitely fixed upon as the day for the assembling of the Convention." [We thought that, by general consent, "Southern Commercial Conventions" were to rest, for a while, at least.]

It appears by the last arrival from Europe, that there is nothing substantially new in relation to the war question. Lord Cowley had left Vienna, with what were reported to be satisfactory propositions. The reports from Paris and Turin were still warlike, and the French consequently declined. The Italian exiles had been well received and liberally provided for by the English people.

The New York Journal of Commerce, speaking of the appalling spread of intemperance, says that a large number of emigrant names are being erased from the list of the living, where the true cause of death is never ascribed by the community at large. (The interposition of surviving friends saving their memories from indegible disgrace.) died of "delirium tremens" being the fearful secret.

A correspondence has taken place between Com. Stewart and Capt. Kearny, relative to Mr. Jefferson's "gun boats," and the amount of it, that Com. Stewart thinks, in case of a war with Spain, at that time threatened, and an attack upon Cuba, these boats would have been employed in the service. There is nothing like Mr. Jefferson's wishing or expecting to filibuster Cuba.

The Washington Union of yesterday announces that that establishment has been sold to Gen. George W. Bowman, at present Superintendent of the Public Printing, who becomes sole proprietor of the paper, and will take full possession of the establishment on the 11th day of April next, when he will make his announcement of the course he intends to pursue.

It is said that Judge Hopkins, a Democratic candidate for Congress, in Virginia, is industriously defending his vote for the old soldier's pension bill.

Dr. J. B. Stowell, of Pittsylvania county, has withdrawn from the race for the Board of Public Works of Va.

The Petersburg Intelligencer gives a very favorable account of the continued growth and prosperity of Petersburg.

TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCHES.

ALBANY, N. Y., March 28.—Mrs. Oella Matus has been arrested on the charge of killing Mary Ann Snyder, aged 23, while attempting abortion with instruments. The accused is 64 years of age, and has been carrying on the business for years without detection.

In New York, there were four hundred and nineteen deaths last week, an increase of ten over the previous report.

Boston, March 28.—The Merchants' Bank, Suffolk Bank, and Merchants' Exchange corporation have subscribed \$50,000 to a bond of indemnity, securing the general government from loss if the post office is reserved to State streets.

Boston, March 28.—The ball given at the Boston theatre, on the 4th instant, produced clear of expense, a fraction less than thirty-six hundred dollars, which has been paid over in aid of the purchase of Mount Vernon.

ALBANY, N. Y., March 28.—The Champlain canal will open on the 11th, and others in that region on the 15th of April.

New York, March 28.—The new government loan sold here to-day at 104, and is firm.

Mungo Park, the African traveller, has had a monument erected to his memory at Selkirk. His birthplace—a country cottage now fast falling to decay—is but a few miles from the town. It lies almost under the shadow of Newark Castle, the same in which the "Last Minstrel" sang his "Lay." Both the ruined castle and the ruined cottage are frequently visited by strangers who are attracted to the vale of Yarrow and Ettrick, by the beauty of the scenery and poetic associations.

News of the Day.

"To show the very age and body of the times."

The Boston Commercial Bulletin of the 26th, states that two applications for charters are now before the Massachusetts Legislature for lines of steamers between Boston and Southern ports. One by E. S. Tobey and others as a committee of the Board of Trade, and another by Donald Mackay; the former contemplates a line of four steamers to run between Boston and Charleston, or Savannah or both, and the latter to New Orleans.

The New Orleans Picayune learns that the Board of Underwriters of that city have adopted a resolution to permit the vessels now aground at the bar to break cargo and send it up to the city in lighters or towboats, assuming all risks of damage or loss on the river, so far as the freight is insured in New Orleans offices. They also do not, however, attend to the kind insurance companies of other cities, or gratuitously assume their risks. A portion of the sugar thus obtained has already been dispatched to Cincinnati by the river route.

Fayette Robinson, esq., who died from the poisoned coffee at the boarding-house of Mrs. Beetham, in New York, was a member of one of the "best families of Virginia," and for the last fifteen years connected with various literary enterprises. He was the author of a history of the Mexican war, and also of several popular dramas. The girl, charged with perpetrating the horrid deed, is said to have been instigated thereto because her back wages were not paid by the laundry, Mrs. Beetham, whose death ensued in a few hours after partaking of the poisoned coffee.

Ex-Governor Robinson, of Kansas, was assaulted in the streets of Lawrence, K. T., a few days since, by Martin F. Conway, who hit the Governor on the head with a cudgel. The Governor writes a letter to the Herald of Freedom, in which he tells how he overtook him, and was about applying a small dose of asphyxia to his wind apparatus, which is an excellent remedy for certain kinds of mania, when his brother interfered and released him.

Piccolomini and Ullman have had a quarrel, resulting in the breaking of the contract between them. The little prima donna is at New Orleans, and will continue her concert tour with most of the members of the opera company. Mr. Muzio, being musical conductor and the agent sent over by Mr. Lumley to look out for his interests during Piccolomini's engagement, is acting as business agent.

Twenty-four Breweries in Cincinnati, use annually four hundred thousand pounds of hops, and the remainder, about twelve in number, an aggregate of perhaps one hundred thousand pounds. In addition, Cincinnati furnishes, perhaps, fifteen hundred bales, of 200 each, to interior towns of Ohio and Indiana, and yet Ohio does not raise a single pound of hops.

The New York Ledger of this week contains a biography of Bernardin St. Pierre, the author of Paul and Virginia, which he wrote himself and presented to Rembrandt Peale, when he sat to that artist for his portrait. Mr. Peale has kept the MS. until within a few weeks, when he translated it, and sent it to the Ledger for publication. A clerk connected with the Boston and Worcester Railroad has been discovered to be a defaulter for about \$2,000. He is a young man, lately married to an estimable young lady, and was supposed to be living with his salary, which was in the neighborhood of \$500 per annum.

In accordance with a public advertisement of the Superintendent of the Public Printing for proposals for 36 lbs. paper, the contract has been awarded to Messrs. James M. Wilcox & Co., of Philadelphia, at \$7.50 perream, being less than the award at the letting of December last.

The trial of United States Marshal Tyler, for killing Capt. Jones, of the brig Concord, at Port Sarnia, C. W., last fall, was concluded at Detroit, 26th inst., by the jury rendering a verdict of involuntary manslaughter, and recommending the prisoner to mercy.

Notes of the bank of Kanawha, Va., of the denomination of five dollars, have been changed and altered into notes of one hundred dollars. The bank never issued any notes of such denomination. It has issued only \$5, \$10 and \$20 notes.

Several boats are now loading with canal coal at the mines on Coal river, Va., which is destined for Boston. The boats will be towed from the mouth of Kanawha to Pittsburgh—then shipped by railroad to Philadelphia—thence by vessel to Boston.

The authorship of the celebrated sermons on the "Harp of a Thousand Strings," and "The Spirits of Just men made Perfect," is ascribed to the Rev. Mr. Lewis, a Methodist minister stationed at La Grange, Tennessee.

The Boston Atlas and Bee understands that Mr. Everett intends to make an addition to his oration upon Washington, in relation to the emancipation of his slaves by that great and good man. (?)

Madame Gazzaniga, the popular prima donna, recently widowed by the death of Count Malempina, who was her husband, has married Mr. Abbatis.

Col. Colt, one of the wealthiest men in New England, twelve years ago mortgaged a lathe and some machinery to secure a debt of \$750.

Senator Pugh, of Ohio, lost an infant daughter by death a few days since, at Washington.

Mr. Leutze, the artist, is about to take up his residence in Boston.

Excavations at Athens.

The Archaeological Society of Athens is actively proceeding with excavations in the vicinity of the Temple of Theseus, and fragments of architecture and sculpture are continually being discovered. Among other objects recently found was an ancient inscription, in which the form of the characters warrants the conjecture that they were written from right to left. In the course of diggings on the Acropolis there were recently found in the cistern in front of the Parthenon some remains of the best period of ancient Greek sculpture, consisting of small male and female figures. Fragments of inscriptions were likewise found, and it is hoped that further search will bring to light the portions requisite to audit of their being fully deciphered. Among the fragments recently dug up one of the most remarkable is a horse's foot, which is supposed to belong to the sculptures of the Parthenon. There is also a colossal hand, which is conjectured to have belonged to the statue of Neptune, and if so it is the hand that held the trident. In front of the Parthenon, and extending along the whole breadth of the edifice, right steps are now uncovered. The steps of the objects, which are continually being dug up, are fragments of antiquities already known and preserved in museums in a mutilated state.—Bulletin.

Later from Europe.

ARRIVAL OF THE NIAGARA AND ALPS.

HALIFAX, March 27.—The Niagara, from Liverpool on the 12th, arrived here this noon, and the Alps, from the same port, came up about the same time. The Niagara passed the Africa off-Tasman on the 13th, and the Edinburgh arrived at Glasgow on the 12th. The House of Commons had rejected the Government bill partially abolishing the church rate dues, by a large majority. Lord Cowley had been in London, and it was reported that he takes with him satisfactory propositions; but the latest Paris correspondence asserts that affairs look less pacific. The French funds declined one per cent. Sardinia still threatens.

The Neapolitan exiles explain their conduct, and say that they simply threatened Captain Stuart with legal proceedings if he took them to America against their will.—They are being liberally provided for in England. The Times recommends a public subscription in their behalf.

Lord John Russell gave notice of an amendment to the reform bill to the effect that no adjustment of the franchise will satisfy the House or the country which does not provide for a greater extension of suffrage in the cities and boroughs than the bill provides for. Mr. Wilde gave notice of an amendment providing for the ballot.

Five persons recently arrested in Ireland for being connected with the Phoenix Club were being tried for treason at Prague. They are charged with conspiring to subvert the Constitution of the country and establish in Ireland a Democratic Republic, with ramifications in France and America.

The London Times again refers to the defaulting States in the United States, giving a resume of their present positions to prevent being deluded by constant flourishes of their Governors.

LONDON, Saturday.—Consols fell a quarter yesterday, and this was caused by depression in Paris. Austrian exchange rose two or three points, owing to renewed distrust.

The Nord distinctly asserts that Napoleon consented to the insertion of a pacific article in the Monitor to show his moderation; but that, if the present difficulties are not diplomatically settled and if Austria does not yield, he will not shrink from consequences.

LIVERPOOL, Friday Morning.—Cotton—sales of the week 71,200 bales including 16,000 to speculators and 5,500 to exporters.—The American steamer's arrival caused an advance of 1d. on fair and 3d. on middling qualities. The estimated sales to day were 10,000 bales, closing at the following quotations: Orleans fair, middling 7 5-16; Mobile, fair 7 1-16, middling 7 3-16; Uplands, fair 7 1-16, middling 7 3-16. Stock on hand 358,600 bales, including 322,000 of American. Some authorities say the advance was not fully maintained at the close. At Manchester the market was firm, with an improved Continental demand.

Breadstuffs closed with a declining tendency. Provisions were quiet.

Bullion in the Bank had increased £60,000, Consols 99 1/2.

SATURDAY.—Estimated sales of Cotton 10,000 bales. The market closed steady but firm.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The Attorney General, Secretary of the Treasury and Postmaster General were today engaged in making out instructions to the agent in Philadelphia with regard to the new office, custom-house and court-house buildings. Unless there shall be a disappointment in making a sale of the lots which the law authorizes, the work of construction will rapidly progress.

From information received here, it appears that the business of importing Africans is far more extensive than heretofore supposed, and that the arrangements for that purpose are ingeniously devised—small boats are employed to relieve slavers of their cargoes and bring them into Southern states. Our government has been informed of some of the movements, and has taken efficient measures in the premises.

Don Zagorra, the new Minister from Peru to this government, was today formally presented to the President by Mr. Cass, when the usual friendly assurances were interchanged. It is not believed here that any filibustering expedition is now ready to start for Cuba, as recently reported. The most reliable advices are altogether contrary to the probability of such a movement. The story is similar to the programme of Gen. Kaneau, promulgated months ago.

The project submitted by the French to the British government, merely proposes a friendly visitation where there is good cause for suspicion that the vessel is a slaver. To this our government has no objections, so far as vessels sailing under the American flag are concerned, but will hold the visiting parties responsible for any misconduct or violation of maritime rights.

The Navy Department learns that the steamer Metacomb, of the Paraguay expedition, arrived at Maranhao, Brazil, on the 31st.

General Bowman, the superintendent of public printing, has purchased the Union newspaper establishment, and will take possession in about two weeks. Perhaps its name will be changed.

"Manifest Destiny"—Going North. CUBA AND CANADA.—The feeling among the Canadians in favor of annexation to the United States is stronger than ever. So less a personage than Mr. Inspector General Galt said, in his place, the other day, that the evils under which Canada labored, and for which the proposed Tariff offered no remedy, were susceptible of cure in no other way than by severing connection with the mother country. Then, again, we hear of printed circulars sent up to the Colonial Parliament, not only praying that steps to that end may be taken as soon as possible, but that negotiations be opened for incorporation into the American Union.

If it would pay to annex Cuba, we do not see why it would not be quite as profitable a job to bring Canada into the confederacy.—Negroes and cheap sugar are all that Mr. Brown, of Mississippi, promises in the first instance; but Canada has some things, besides white men, which might be quite as well worth having. If the Browns, the Silldells, the Masons, and the Johnsons are determined to "have Cuba anyhow," it might be good policy to insist upon it, as a compromise, that they let the Cubans say whether they will or not.

Spain has no business in Cuba, neither has he in the Canadas.—N. Y. Exp.

General Hennington.

This celebrated military officer, General Charles F. Hennington, arrived yesterday in Richmond, and put up at the Exchange and Ball Room.

The gallant General, who like a soldier of fortune, trusting to his good sword, has travelled through many a hot Argentine Territory, now about to emigrate to Arizona, is now about to be put to rest in a quiet country called Sonora, and, perhaps, his sword is to be turned into a ploughshare of the Arizona Association's mold.

Several hundred emigrants from the North-western and South-western States will join in this new settlement scheme, and they will arrive at El Paso on the Rio Grande, in the early part of September, fully organized to carry out their progressive settlement operations, in which we trust that at all times fortune may favor the brave.—Rich. Enquirer.

Democratic Testimony.

In a speech in the House of Representatives, near the close of the last session, Hon. A. H. Stephens, of Georgia, said:

"When I first entered Congress, in 1843, the expenses of the Government were only \$30,000,000 per annum. The country had gone through the expensive Mexican war, with sixty-three thousand soldiers in the field, for thirty-three millions, and now, in time of peace, the estimates were seventy-three millions. Many expenses were wholly unnecessary, and reform was indispensably needed. He believed forty millions an abundance for the national expense."

Hon. Andrew Johnson, Senator from Tennessee—also good Democratic authority—referring to the same subject, said in a recent speech in the Senate:

"It is in the power of Congress to prevent these enormous expenditures; and if we do not interpose, we are responsible for them. This Government, sixty-nine years of age, scarcely out of its swaddling-clothes, is making more corrupt uses of money in proportion to the amount collected from the people, as I honestly believe, than any other government now on the habitable globe."

Gen. Shields, one of the Democratic Senators from Minnesota, in the course of a debate in the Senate, also took occasion to say:

"I think it is not saying too much to declare that this country has gone faster and further, in ten years, in extravagance, than most other countries have done in centuries."

Senator Toombs, of Georgia, another leading Democrat, declared in the Senate that he believed this to be the corrupt government on earth; and other Senators concurred in the remark.

Hon. M. R. H. Garnett, of Virginia, in a recent speech, said:

"Can any gentleman pretend that it is fair, that it is just, that it is legitimate, that the expenses of this government, in time of profound peace, should have doubled in six years? Look through the list of items, and you will find that the expenditures have doubled in almost every item. Is there no place to apply the knife? The Committee of Ways and Means tell you, that they cannot control these expenditures, except by the one way to control them is the same way that you would control any other extravagant person; that is, by stinting them in money."

And all this under Democratic rule; a Democratic President; a Democratic Cabinet; a Democratic Congress, and Democratic officials in all the administrative departments. O "Why slumbers the indignation of the Democracy? Why are the people so patient?"—Rich. Whig.

Universal Suffrage Discussed.

An American writer gives his views in the London Times on the suffrage subject, which is now occupying the attention of the British parliament and people. He takes decided grounds against the universality of suffrage. He declares that the extension of the elective franchise to men irrespective of their interest in the preservation of society, has proved to be a failure in this country. He declares that the scramble for place in this country has corrupted every avenue to the public service. Spoils are revelled upon as if they were not exacted from the hard earnings of the people. The whole country, he says, has become a vast school of idlers, and the investigations made in Congress show that public life has only been given to a small portion of the evils which lie like tumors in the body politic, and inflame every fibre, preparing us for a dissolution, unless the probe is driven to the very seat of the corruption.

A Philadelphia journal remarks that if ever the disease under which we are suffering is to be eradicated, it will be when the mercantile, the mechanical, and agricultural classes, the real elements of strength, combine to arrest the evil that now threatens the prosperity and perpetuity of the government. It cannot be denied that, in the early days of the Republic, the ballot box was purer, the public men purer, the people purer, the governments, Federal and State, administered more economically, Congress more honest and dignified, and the country more harmonious and content, with a better reputation and more moral power in the world, than it has ever had since the introduction of universal suffrage.—Rich. Dispatch.

Murderers to be Executed.

Peter Corrie, Marion Cropps, Henry Gambrill, and John H. Cyphus, convicted of murder in Baltimore, on the 8th of April.

Isaac Freeland, in Fayette Co., Ga., on the 15th of April, for the murder of Claiborne Vaughn.

Mrs. Hartung, for the murder of her husband, and John Wilson for killing Patrick McCarty, in Albany, on Wednesday, the 25th of April.

Henry Jumpertz, the man who murdered his mistress, and packed her body in a barrel and shipped it to New York; Michael McNamee, for killing his wife, and Michael Fann, in Chicago, on Friday, the 6th of May.

Burns, for the murder of a man named Burke, in Cincinnati, on Friday, the 27th of May.

A New "Hoop" Disease.

A new disease has made its appearance since the introduction of hoops. It exhibits itself only in cold weather, and then is only discoverable in cities where the buildings are warmed with furnaces. Two ladies were standing over a register the other day, talking and laughing when one endeavoring to sit was suddenly attacked and screamed violently. The other soon also tried to sit, and was attacked in the same manner. The explanation is that by standing so long over the register, their metallic hoops became heated to such a degree that when they attempted to be seated, it was like sitting on a hot gridiron. Of course they were not a great length of time getting up again, and naturally enough uttered screams—all of which would be very mysterious to a looker on, unacquainted with the mysteries of hoops.

Insanity in Murders.

A person named Martin was tried last week, in Vermont, for shooting and killing two individuals, against whom he appears to have had no previous grudge. The defence was insanity, and it was proved that the man was subject to fits of mental aberration, and indulged in wild fancies of being beset by robbers and armies. The Court admitted the fact of the illusions being proved, but held that he was to say whether Martin was under the effect of one of them when he killed the two men, and how far such aberration should release him from responsibility for his acts. The jury brought in a verdict of guilty, which, by the statute, subjects Martin to one year's imprisonment and after that the Governor may order his execution. This case may certainly be set down as one of the uncertainties of the law.

Eight Children at one Birth.

About two months since the wife of Jacob Abbott in Toledo, O. W. presented her husband with eight pledges of affection at one birth. These children survived until six weeks old, when two of them sickened and died. The remaining six are still living and thriving nicely. The whole eight were very small specimens of humanity when ushered into the world, as might have been expected. This statement is literally true; it is vouched for by numbers of respectable witnesses who saw the children. So says the Boston Herald. (?)

Recent Cases of Poisoning.

It is time that some stringent laws were enacted and enforced against the trade in poisons. It is had enough to have diluted poisons dealt out in the corner groceries and from the milk wagons. That is what the doctors call chronic, and we fear the term is too well applied; but when it comes to the rapid work of arsenic and strychnine, then, indeed, there is cause for alarm. Every drug shop should be regarded with as much horror as a hired bravo or cut-throat; for in one case it is paying liberally for the use of the stiletto against which a strong man may guard, while in the other it is only necessary to invest a few cents in a vulgar poison against which no strength or watchfulness can avail.

A couple of years ago the community was thrown into consternation by the accounts of the mysterious sickness which caused the National Hotel at Washington to be deserted and closed up, and which sent to premature graves many victims. The doctors and learned pundits held consultations, and with grave stupidity ascribed the malady to imperfect sewerage; but there is little doubt that it was the result of arsenical poison, by which some vulgar underling sought to gratify his malice in ruining the business of the house. Arsenic is cheap and unfortunately can be had at every apothecary's store with as little difficulty as gaudy salts.

A remarkable instance of the recklessness with which poisons are vended was exposed a few days since in Philadelphia. It was the case of

One more unfortunate, weary of breath, who went to a drug store and asked for a certain quantity of strychnine. It was handed to her without scruple and as the dainty clerk opened his money drawer to drop in the price of blood, he remarked, casually, that there was much poison in that little package to kill three men. "Is there?" said the wretched girl, "I mean to take it all myself." And the clerk smiled and smiled, and the poor girl went her way—to the grave of a suicide.

Our criminal court has just spent three weeks in convicting a man of the murder of his wife, in this city, by poisoning; and in that case, it appeared by the evidence, that the arsenic was sold to him over the counter as freely as if it had been sugar.

In Albany there was another capital conviction a few weeks ago—the case of Mrs. Hartung for the murder of her husband. In that case the poisoning was effected by doses of phosphorus, because the murderer, when she went to the drug store, could not remember the English for arsenic—she being a German and not well acquainted with our language. But the phosphorus did the work just as surely.

A week or two ago, a young divine a candidate for the ministry in New Jersey, being desirous of getting rid of the wife he had wed but six months before, that he might gratify his passion in another quarter, had recourse to the same vulgar remedy and administered arsenic in a dose of salts. At least, he is charged with that offence. The arsenic, at all events, was administered and did its work of death.

And now, one of our city Coroners is engaged in the investigation of a wholesale case of poisoning, whereby the lives of a whole household, including boarders, were endangered, and where already two deaths have resulted. And in this case the only apparent cause for the diabolical crime, is that the cook who is charged with it, was not paid her wages, and was bound to have satisfaction.

Thus it is, that the lives of respectable citizens are in peril in the streets of our city from the knives of lawless ruffians, who go prowling about without fear of the police, there is as little security for them in the privacy of their own homes, where a lewd spouse or a malicious domestic may, with the utmost facility, poison their food.—N. Y. Herald.

Underground Railroad.

An association composed of the colored people of Canada West, the object of which is to erect a depot at Sandwich, for the reception of passengers over the Underground Railroad from the slave States, and the more efficiently to aid those who run away, in their efforts to reach Canada, has been formed. The association, which is to be called the Agricultural, Mechanical and Educational Association of Canada West, is composed principally of those who, for several years, have been conductors and depot agents on the Underground Railroad.

They have procured at Sandwich thirty acres of ground, on which they desire to build houses for the use of those who arrive from slavery, until they can procure employment. They have also opened a free school for their benefit, which is now in prosperous operation. Lewis Clark, the "George Harris" of Uncle Tom's Cabin, is one of the general and traveling agents of the Association.—Detroit Advertiser. [Is this true?]

Interesting Discovery.

An interesting discovery, both as regards history and military architecture, has lately been made in the Island of Cyprus. In the beginning of last December, Ali Pasha, General of Artillery, was charged by the Ottoman Government with visiting the various